Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

COMET *c*, 1895 (PERRINE).

This comet was last observed at the LICK Observatory on December 12th, G. M. T., before it passed the Sun going eastward. It was again glimpsed for a few minutes in the evening of December 20th, but so close to the horizon that no observation was possible. Cloudy weather about this time prevented its being seen again until January 30th, when it had again become a morning object. The weather has been good and a number of observations have been secured since. It is following the orbit computed for it by Professor CAMPBELL very closely, as will be seen from the corrections to the ephemeris published elsewhere in this number.

It is considerably fainter than at discovery, but is still faintly visible in a three-and-a-half inch telescope. The stellar nucleus has been plainly visible although much diminished in brightness, and a short fan-shaped tail has been observed with the twelve-inch equatorial.

The *Observatory* for January prints the following telegram from Cape Town to the "Times" under date of December 25th:

"A comet has been visible during the last few evenings, which Dr. GILL says is the comet discovered by Mr. PERRINE on November 17th. It is moving northward and less rapidly eastward, and is diminishing in brilliance nightly."

C. D. PERRINE.

LICK OBSERVATORY, February 27, 1896.

COMET *a*, 1896 (PERRINE).

The discovery of this comet was the very unusual result of an error due to a mistranslation of a telegram received at the LICK Observatory on February 14th, from Boston, giving an observation of Comet *c*, 1895, at Kiel. Observations of Comet *c*, 1895, had been obtained here since January 30th, and it was found to be following its ephemeris quite closely. The morning of February 15th (next following the receipt of the observation from Kiel), while observing Comet *c*, 1895, I looked up the new position, which agreed with ours in Declination, but was about thirty minutes *preceding* in Right Ascension, and not far away found a new comet, moving rapidly north and east. An observation showed the following position:

February 15.0839 Gr. M. T.

$\alpha \quad 19^h \quad 21^m \quad 57.9^s$

$\delta - \quad 2^\circ \quad 49' \quad 1''$

From observations on February 15th, 16th, and 17th, by the writer, an orbit was computed by Professor LEUSCHNER and Mr. SEARES, of the University of California, and the following elements obtained:

$$T = 1896,\ \text{January } 31.79$$

$$\left.\begin{array}{ll}\omega = 358^\circ & 20' \\ \Omega = 208 & 48 \\ i = 155 & 43\end{array}\right\}\text{Mean Eq. } 1896.0$$

$$q = 0.5874$$

The comet's apparent motion increased rapidly as it approached the Earth. Its nearest approach occurred on the 25th inst., and its apparent motion is now decreasing.

The comet at discovery, on the 15th, was at least twice as bright as Comet *c*, 1895, its light being about equal to that of an eighth-magnitude star. It was quite large, with a decided condensation in the head, but no stellar nucleus could be seen. It had a short, faint tail, which had almost disappeared a few mornings later.

The comet is now far enough north to be visible in the evening after sunset.

There is some similarity between the elements of this comet and those of 1855 II. A series of photographs has been secured by Mr. A. L. COLTON.

C. D. PERRINE.

LICK OBSERVATORY, February 27, 1896.

BRIGHTNESS OF COMET *a*, 1896 (PERRINE).

At the time of discovery of this comet, on February 15th, I estimated its brightness as about equal to that of an eighth-magnitude star. Its theoretical brightness increased to about 1.32 on February 25th, since which time it has been (theoretically) decreasing rapidly. On March 10.5 Gr. M. T. its brightness is computed to be about 0.23 that at discovery. To-night I examined this comet for the first time in two weeks, and was surprised to find it brighter than at discovery. It is certainly as bright now as a seventh-magnitude star, and seems a little more condensed.

C. D. PERRINE.

LICK OBSERVATORY, March 10, 1896.